

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24 (Canceled).

25 (Currently amended). A method of using disposable novelty sports apparatus in a dramatic and humorous way to relieve frustration and stress comprising the steps:

providing disposable novelty sports apparatus having a shaft, the shaft comprising a resilient polymer material and an annular score line;

grasping an end of a shaft with a hand on one side of the score line;

holding a second end of the shaft with a second hand on an opposite side of the score line;

bending the shaft along an arc of curvature that includes the score line to a range of bend angles, not to exceed a predetermined maximum bend angle;

returning the shaft to a normal position; and

releasing the first and second ends of the shaft.

26 (Canceled).

27 (Currently amended). A method according to Claim 26 31 further including the step of disposing of the broken shaft.

28 (Previously added). A method as in claim 25

wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45 degrees.

29 (Currently amended). A method as in claim 26 31

wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45 degrees.

30 (Previously added). A method as in claim 25

wherein the annular score line does not sever the shaft.

31 (Re-presented – formerly dependent claim 31). A method ~~as in claim 26~~ of permanently breaking disposable novelty sports apparatus in a dramatic and humorous way to relieve frustration and stress comprising the steps:

providing disposable novelty sports apparatus having a shaft, the shaft comprising a resilient polymer material and an annular score line that does not sever the shaft;

grasping an end of a shaft with one hand on one side of the score line;

holding a second end of the shaft with another hand on an opposite side of the score line;

bending the shaft along an arc of curvature that includes the score line through a predetermined range of bend angles;

flexing the shaft beyond a predetermined maximum bend angle; and

breaking the shaft at the score line

~~wherein the annular score line does not sever the shaft.~~

32 (New). A disposable novelty sports apparatus comprising a shaft having a grip end and an oppositely spaced equipment end, the shaft comprising:

a polymer material that resiliently bends in response to a bending force applied between the grip end and the equipment end; and

an annular score line formed on the shaft between the grip end and the equipment end comprising a line of weakness that does not sever the shaft;

the polymer material allowing a resilient bending of the shaft about the score line in response to the bending force, the bending force thus causing the shaft to deflect to a bend angle within determined parameters; and

the polymer material having an elastic memory to allow return of the shaft to a generally straightened and original condition once the bending force is removed; and

the shaft permanently breaking along the score line in response to application of the bending force about the score line within a specified range or when the shaft is deflected to a maximum bend angle that exceeds the determined parameters.

33 (New). An apparatus as in claim 32

wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45 degrees.

34 (New). An apparatus as in claim 32

wherein the resilient polymer is plastic.

35 (New). An apparatus as in claim 32

wherein the equipment end includes a golf club head.

36 (New). A disposable novelty sports apparatus comprising a shaft having a grip end and an oppositely spaced equipment end, the shaft comprising:

a rigid and resilient solid polymer material that resiliently bends in response to a bending force applied between the grip end and the equipment end; and

an annular score line formed on the shaft between the grip end and the equipment end comprising a line of weakness;

the polymer material allowing a resilient bending of the shaft about the score line in response to the bending force, the bending force thus causing the shaft to deflect to a bend angle within determined parameters; and

the polymer material having an elastic memory to allow return of the shaft to a generally straightened and original condition once the bending force is removed; and

the shaft permanently breaking along the score line in response to application of the bending force about the score line within a specified range or when the shaft is deflected to a maximum bend angle that exceeds the determined parameters.

37 (New). An apparatus as in claim 36

wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45 degrees.

38 (New). An apparatus as in claim 36

wherein the resilient polymer is plastic.

39 (New). An apparatus as in claim 36

wherein the equipment end includes a golf club head.